

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR NRCS-MN EQIP APPLICATION SCORING WORKSHEET

(Determine benefits only for factors to be addressed with EQIP funding.)

NATIONAL ISSUES SCORING

EQIP has 4 national priorities: soil erosion, water quality, air quality, and wildlife habitat. In Minnesota applications must address one of the national issues questions in order to be a high priority application considered for funding. An application scoring 0 in the National Issues Score will be considered a low priority application and be ineligible for funding at this time. Grazing Systems, Forest Management practices, and Local Issues may earn points under soil erosion or water quality as appropriate if the practice impacts these concerns.

STATE ISSUES SCORING

SOIL EROSION

Estimate for any land use where the sheet and rill or wind erosion control measures are planned. Weighted average "Tons Soil per Acre per Year to be saved" estimates can be based on the representative soil map unit (most common or most critical) used to develop the proposed conservation measures; or Group soil map units by similar "KLS" (Soil erodibility I factor for wind) values if the conservation measures will be based on more than one soil map unit. If appropriate treat a stripcropped area as if it was one field. Use standard weighting procedures and follow worksheet instructions to determine points.

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION

Points are earned for conservation practices to be installed.

HABITAT CONSERVATION

Points are earned if the practice is installed to benefit an at-risk species.

AIR QUALITY

Points are assigned if the practice is specifically installed to improve air quality or if the practice addresses other resources but is also specifically designed to improve air quality as a secondary concern. Specific practices are planned as specific components of waste storage structures, wastewater and runoff control practices (CNMPs) or waste utilization and include biofilters, scrubbers, diet manipulation, shelterbelts, geotextile or solid covers and anaerobic digestion. Secondary practices include immediate incorporation or injection of manure, mortality composting, windbreaks, cross wind stripcropping, and other erosion control practices whose primary purpose is to reduce wind erosion (e.g. residue management).

WATER QUALITY

Points are earned if the contract area is located within: **A.** a watershed impaired because of turbidity, fecal coliform, or excess nutrients (Phosphorus) **B.** the boundaries of a vulnerable Source Water Assessment Area (SWAA); **C** the boundaries of a Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) with medium to very high vulnerability to contamination; or **D.** an area delineated on a County Geologic Atlas or Regional Hydrogeologic Assessment as Very High or High Sensitivity to Aquifer or Ground Water System pollution

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/groundwater_section/mapping/index.html.

Locations of impaired watersheds and vulnerable SWAAs and DWSMAs can be found on the NRCS GIS Project titled "Sensitive Waters 2005". Use view 1(Sensitive Waters 2005) for watersheds (any watershed highlighted as "PCA's 2004 Impaired Watersheds; or NRCS's 2004 watersheds (additional) or any area contributing to lakes appearing under PCA's 2004 impaired lakes if one of the impairments is shown as nutrients. Use View 3 (Source Water Assessments) to identify vulnerable SWAAs and vulnerable DWSMAs..

Receiving waters for scoring purposes are defined as permanent or intermittent streams identified on USGS topographic maps; lakes; DNR delineated calcareous fens; types 3 thru 5 wetlands; sinkholes, abandoned wells being sealed, or tile inlets which outlet directly into these features and other waterbodies considered to be of importance in local comprehensive water plans. Distance from applicable practice or field is determined by measuring from the nearest portion of the nearest field or practice.

LOCAL ISSUES SCORING

Local/ Issues are identified through the Local Work Group process. Local Issues must be reviewed and approved by the State Office prior to any use.